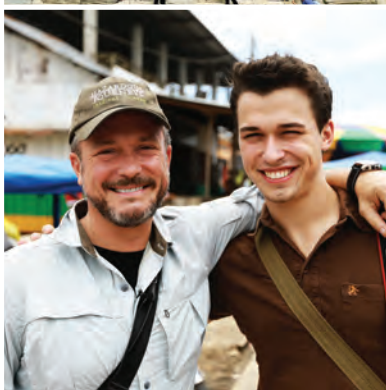
18 LESSONS FROM 2012 & 18 VISIONS FOR 2013



18 LESSONS FROM 2012

The Family is Still Foundational

VFM Brings Message of Family Reformation across Nation

In 2012, Vision Forum Ministries was represented at more than twenty events around the nation, including numerous homeschool conferences, reached millions of listeners via radio on 700 stations around the world with the Jonathan Park Radio Drama, and sponsored more than half a dozen unique signature events, including the Father & Son and Father & Daughter Retreats. Through all this, VFM sought to help restore the biblical family to its place of vibrancy and strength by pointing families to the one sure foundation for all of life—God's Holy Word.

We Must Remember the Mighty Providences of God

VFM Launches Chair in Providential History with Bill Potter

The Bible teaches that those who know the mighty deeds of God in the past will be equipped to stand firm amid difficulty, while those who are ignorant of God's providential faithfulness to His people will lose hope when hardship comes. With this in mind, Vision Forum Ministries achieved a longtime goal in 2012 in establishing a Chair in Providential History, welcoming Bill Potter as Scholar in Residence. In this role, Mr. Potter gave numerous engaging history lectures this year and helped to produce other key resources that proclaim the providences of God.

The Lord is Raising an Army To Challenge Hollywood

VFM Trains 400 Christian Filmmakers

The 2012 Christian Filmmakers Academy (CFA), held February 20–22, equipped nearly 400 students to challenge Hollywood through distinctively Christian filmmaking. The Academy featured a strong faculty, including Doug Phillips, Geoff and Isaac Botkin, John Fornof, Tryg Jacobsen, Justin Tolley, Stephen Kendrick, and Kirk Cameron. Among the CFA's highlights was the personal testimony Kirk Cameron shared of how God has powerfully transformed his life and given him a kingdom purpose that drives his ministry and filmmaking—a point that many students seized and made their own.

The Battle for Biblical Fatherhood Is Advancing

'Courageous' Wins Grand Prize at 2012 SAICFF

More than 2,100 were in attendance at the 2012 SAICFF when *Courageous*, co-produced by Stephen and Alex Kendrick, received the 'Best of Festival' Jubilee Award. This action-packed drama, which calls fathers to lead with vision, also garnered the 'Best Feature Film' Award at the festival. *Courageous* tightly parallels the priority of Vision Forum Ministries concerning the need of fathers to lead, and reached millions of Americans with a sound message of fatherhood, becoming one of the top-grossing independent Christian films in history—good news for the family in America.

Men Need to Take "Hazardous Journeys"

10-Year Mission of Hazardous Journeys Society Launched

In 1914, the *London Times* ran an advertisement which read, "Men wanted for Hazardous Journey. Small wages, bitter cold, long months of complete darkness, constant danger, safe return doubtful. Honor and recognition in case of success." The man who posted the ad was acclaimed arctic explorer Sir Ernest Shackleton. In the spirit of Shackleton's call, Vision Forum Ministries launched the Hazardous Journeys Society in 2012 with a unique ten-year mission: to send father-and-son teams on journeys to every nation of the world to explore and declare the glory of God.

We Must Help Our Sons Transition to Manhood

VFM Releases Film Shorts: Dominion, Risk, and Manhood

Most of our young men today spend their time in frivolous, unmanly pursuits which promote passivity rather than hardy dominion labor. To help spark a vision to wisely help our sons transition into manhood, Vision Forum Ministries released the Hazardous Journeys Trilogy, a film series shot in Iceland's arctic wasteland. The three film shorts—titled, *Dominion*, *Risk*, and *Manhood*—follow a father and three of his sons as they explore the true meaning of the dominion mandate and confront disaster by proving their leadership through adversity and risk-taking.

18 LESSONS FROM 2012

Fathers and Daughters Must Be United in Christ

Callaway Retreat Brings Encouragement, Hope & Vision

More than 450 fathers and daughters from around the nation gathered at Georgia's beautiful 14,000-acre Callaway Gardens for a blessed weekend of fellowship as part of the 2012 Father and Daughter Retreat. Fathers and daughters enjoyed outdoor excursions together, a memorable High Tea, as well as powerful and encouraging messages from Doug Phillips, Anna Sofia and Elizabeth Botkin, Scott Brown, and others. The greatest blessing came in hearing fathers and daughters share how their time at the retreat had renewed their vision to be united in Christ.

Christians Must Champion "Women and Children First"

VFM Centennial Celebration Honors Titanic Sacrifice

Just under 600 Christians gathered in Branson for the Titanic 100, an international event designed to honor the legacy of the men and boys aboard *Titanic* who died so that women and children might live. The 3-day commemoration featured stirring speeches and musical performances, more than 80 Titanic reenactors, and a Titanic Children's Play, among other highlights. Doug Phillips brought the event to a close by passing his mantle of President of the Christian Boys' and Men's Titanic Society—which celebrated its 16th annual gathering in April—to his first-born son Joshua.

The Battle for the Christian Family is Heating Up

Homosexuality Advocates Target VFM for Cyber Attacks

In May of this year, Vision Forum sustained an unprecedented attack, as outside forces sought to neutralize the ministry's website, hijack a poll on Doug Phillips' blog concerning the sanctity of marriage, and post obscenities on Vision Forum's Facebook page. All three hits came within hours of each other and appeared to be in direct retaliation to several blog posts Doug Phillips made condemning President Obama's endorsement of homosexual marriage. This assault by homosexual advocates underscores the need for vigilance as the battle for the Christian family intensifies.

The Lord Blessed a Vision for History and Dominion

'D-Day' and 'Into the Amazon' to Broadcast on National TV

This June, two engaging 7-part film series that Vision Forum Ministries produced in 2011—*D-Day and the Providence of God* and *Into the Amazon*—were licensed to the Trinity Broadcasting Network for television broadcast. Given TBN's reach of more than 100 million homes in over 75 countries, these 7-episode video miniseries—that give a Christian perspective to the modern world's defining military battle, and offer a proper response to the evolutionary scientism and pantheism that dominate most discussions of the Amazon—will now air to a large global audience.

The Family Dinner Table Is Key to Godly Family Culture

Food and Family Conference Tackles Tough Issues

In July, more than 1,300 gathered for the Reformation of Food and the Family Conference. The event featured food-baking contests, a Ladies Tea with Michelle Duggar, two specialty cooking schools—"The Joy of a French Cuisine" with Chef Francis Foucachon and "The Raw Cooking Revolution"—as well as workshops covering a host of topics such as "The Future of Food in America"; "The Joy of Food in Christian Family Culture"; and thorny controversies such as FDA overreach, dieting fads, GMO's, and more—all from a biblical perspective.

Critics Will Come and Go, But the Bible Remains True

VFM Releases Jonathan Park and the Copper Scroll

After more than a year in production, Vision Forum Ministries was pleased to release Album #8 of the Jonathan Park Creation Adventure Series—*The Copper Scroll*—which follows the Creation Response Team on an archeological treasure hunt to the caves of Qumran to uncover ancient artifacts from history and reveal exciting testimonies which affirm God's inerrant Word. The message of this album is that while critics of the Scriptures will come and go, the Bible remains true, reliable, and steadfast.

18 LESSONS FROM 2012

Mentors Can Inspire Others To Be Courageous and Endure

Hazardous Journeys Stretches and Tests Men at 14,000 ft.

Up mountain peaks they climbed—15 men intent on training for yet greater challenges as they backpacked through the remote mountains of Southwest Colorado as part of the Backcountry Experience Bootcamp. The bootcamp was the inaugural event for the Hazardous Journeys Society and was led by Dr. Austin F Collins (honorary Ph. D. in adventure). Not only did the majority of the group summit five peaks roughly 14,000 feet in height, but the men were equipped with the necessary skills to lead their own Hazardous Journeys around the world.

Aging Heroes Should Be Honored

VFM Ambassador Liberty Phillips Honors Veterans

In the year since Vision Forum Ministries travelled with WWII veterans to the beaches of Normandy, Liberty Phillips, daughter of VFM founder Doug Phillips, has had over a hundred communications of personal and Gospel encouragement to the aging warriors she met—and the responses she has received have been profound and touching. To cap off her effort of honor, Liberty journeyed in September with her mother and two sisters to England on a special visit to encourage two particular British vets that delight in their role as her "English Grandpop[s]."

South America Needs the Message of Christian Fatherhood

VFM Launches Spanish Ministry

South America, like every other region of the globe, is a continent in need of Christian fatherhood. To help meet this challenge, Vision Forum Ministries launched a Spanish ministry in Peru this year, bringing a message of biblical manhood and family shepherding to fathers in Nauta and Iquitos, located at the Gateway to the Amazon. The VFM team brought special messages on the vision and practicalities of how men can lead in family worship and reach the hearts of their children with a message of hope in Christ.

The Great Commission Is Still Great

In a Season of Panic, VFM Champions 'The Big Picture'

In October, Vision Forum Ministries took an active role in the NCFIC's White Unto Harvest Conference, the goal of which was to define, defend, and reassert the greatness of the Great Commission. The aim of the event was to show the Great Commission's full-orbed and hopeful message for all of life, and to equip whole families and local churches to engage in robust Gospel ministry. One consistent theme made at the conference was this: Though the Church may be weak today, the Great Commission is truly great and will triumph in history.

The Antidote to Bitterness And Fear is Thankfulness

VFM Honors the Pilgrims' Legacy of Faith and Freedom

If one were to spend every waking moment of every day for the rest of their life noting God's goodness, they would never begin to chronicle all the things for which they should thank the Lord. That's why in November—during a season of fear and discouragement for many—Vision Forum Ministries encouraged Christians to rejoice over the Pilgrims' legacy of faith and freedom surrounding America's "First Thanksgiving." The core message was this: Rather than grow bitter and despondent, we should "in every thing give thanks" (1 Thes. 5:18).

The Word Must Be Preached And the Message Distributed

VFM Releases More Than Two Dozen New Products

December capped a busy year of publishing and production, as Vision Forum Ministries released more than two dozen new resources in 2012, including *Advanced Family Strategies*, a series of one-on-one audio conversations between Doug and Beall Phillips in which they share some of the most practical and proven strategies they've implemented in their family. Also released was the DVD *Hospitality with Michelle Duggar*, a new Jonathan Park album, the Heroes, Villains, & Character Lessons audio series from Bill Potter, numerous messages from the Food Conference, and much more.

18 VISIONS FOR 2013

Encouragement for the Christian Household

VFM to Bring Message of Family Reformation

The defining battle of our generation is the battle for the family. Our family culture in the church, as in the world, is in disrepair. Fathers are failing to lead with vision from God's Word, wives have sought their significance outside of home and family, and children have lost their way as a result. This next year, Vision Forum Ministries will be bringing the much-needed message of family reformation to dozens of venues around the nation on radio, in print, and through the Internet. Please pray for this important outreach effort.

Our Mission: Building the 21st Century Family

A Focus on Preparing Families for 21st Century Challenges

Each year we seek the Lord for wisdom to understand the times and to speak to the issues of the day. As we approach 2013, we are burdened for the need of the Church to be ready for the epic challenges of the future in America. With God's help, the Church needs to build a 21st century man and family that understand the past, live in the present, and pave the way for the future. Our goal is to prepare wise, cool-headed, kingdom-minded, and visionary families through encouraging conferences and resources.

A Distinctively Christian Remedy to Hollywood

8th SAICFF to Advance Christ-Honoring Films

A defining issue in the battle for the family is culture, and few cultural influences are more negative than Hollywood. Vision Forum Ministries' answer is not to curse the darkness, but to light a candle—to build a Christian industry from the ground-level up through "epistemologically self-conscious" filmmaking. This is the aim of the San Antonio Independent Christian Film Festival which seeks to reward those filmmakers who artfully reflect Christian principles through a $101,000 Grand Prize and other Jubilee Awards. The 2013 SAICFF will be held on February 7–9.

Training Culture-Changers, Not Culture-Conformers

Christian Filmmakers Academy to Train 600 Filmmakers

God's Word directs us not to be "conformed to this world" but to be "transformed by the renewing of [our minds]" (Rom. 12:2). Yet when it comes to the critical arena of film, Christians all too often swallow Hollywood's dark vision for cinema hook, line, and sinker. Vision Forum Ministries' mission with the Christian Filmmakers Academy (CFA) is to raise up filmmakers who take every frame captive "to the obedience of Christ" (2 Cor. 10:5), unimpeded by Hollywood's corrupt agenda. It's this goal that will be the focus on February 4–6 at the 2013 CFA.

A 3-D Perspective on the Ministry of the Apostle Paul

'In the Footsteps of Paul' Tour to New Testament Greece

In 2013, VFM will take families to the location of one of the greatest apologetic ministries in history—New Testament Greece. There we will walk in the footsteps of Paul the Apostle and chronicle his ministry, his message, and the unfolding story of New Testament Christianity during the Apostolic era. From Athens to Corinth, from Thessalonica to Ephesus, we will remember the antithesis between Jerusalem and Athens and the message that turned the world upside down.

The Great Transition

Leading Our Sons from Boyhood to Visionary Manhood

One of the most discussed issues in the homeschool movement, if not in the Christian community as a whole, is the need for helping our sons to gain maturity and transition into manhood. There is a real concern that in this age of ease and entertainment, many Christian young men remain confused, unprepared, and immature. In 2013, VFM will focus on addressing "The Great Transition"—Leading Our Sons from Boyhood to Visionary Manhood. Our efforts will include holding a conference at the end of March in San Antonio, Texas. Special messages will address this and other related issues, drawing from Scripture and the experience of proven, godly success stories.

18 VISIONS FOR 2013

Biblical Femininity Defined and Defended

Fathers and Daughters to be Refreshed at Callaway

One of the most controversial but critical elements of Vision Forum Ministries' outreach is our self-conscious encouragement of young ladies to pursue a full-orbed Proverbs 31, Titus 2 vision of Christian womanhood. This begins by emphasizing the centrality of Christ in the life of our daughters and then proceeds by encouraging a strong a relationship between them and their fathers. This will remain a key focus in 2013 as VFM returns to Georgia's beautiful Callaway Gardens for our Father and Daughter Retreat, to be held on March 22–24.

Inspire Children to Become Defenders of the Bible

VFM to Release Jonathan Park and the Whispering Sphinx

Many scholars have claimed that Egyptian history disproves the chronology of the Bible. In *Jonathan Park and the Whispering Sphinx*—to be released in 2013—the Creation Response Team will journey to the great pyramids of Giza, explore archeological discoveries along the Nile, and interact with a puzzling artifact found underneath the Sphinx. As they investigate the mysteries of Egypt, they will discover that Egyptian archeology is actually in harmony with the biblical accounts of the Old Testament—a message that will equip your children to become more able defenders of God's Word.

A Gospel Vision for Adventure and Evangelism

HJS to Send Teams Into a Dozen Countries

In 2013, the Hazardous Journeys Society aspires to launch more than a dozen teams of men on expeditions to diverse countries, engaging in biblical dominion (from the study of creation to providential history), and challenging adventure that involves risk, in order to encourage the mature growth of manhood. Our ten-year mission aspires to send father and son teams to collect data, study the environment, proclaim the lordship of Christ, and communicate the glory of "our Father's world." After ten years, we hope to have had successful missions to more than 190 nations.

Men and Future Men vs. The Wilderness

HJS Takes Fathers and Sons Into the Alaskan Outback

What if you found yourself in the wilderness with only your wits, some basic tools, and your knowledge of the outdoors to keep you warm and fed? Could you survive? This year, VFM's Hazardous Journeys Society will be working with trained guides to take fathers and sons on a great Alaskan adventure that will test their limits and teach them teamwork and basic survival skills. It's all part of our ongoing mission to build a 21st century man, one who is about the task of dominion, who is willing to take intelligent risks in pursuit of important missions, and who is training the next generation of men in biblical manhood.

Announcing the History of America Mega-Conference

A Conference on God's Providential Legacy

In 2005, VFM held the first History of the World Mega-Conference, covering more than 4,000 years of history. This July we will meet on the East Coast for our History of America Mega-Conference. Leading Christian historians will trace the providential history of America from its antecedents to its founding, from its rise to its recent decline. In VFM tradition, the conference will involve reenactments, lectures, music, and exciting opportunities to enjoy the Fourth of July in true historic an patriotic style, as well as visit the 150th anniversary reenactment of the Battle of Gettysburg.

The Conflict That Changed Our Nation

VFM Returns to Gettysburg for the Sesquicentennial

There is no more controversial war fought on American soil than the War Between the States, and no more epic battle in that war than the 3-day Battle of Gettysburg that took place in the early days of July in 1863. Join Vision Forum Ministries in Gettysburg on July 4, 2013 for the Sesquicentennial of that conflict in what may prove to be the largest reenactment ever staged in America. A special Gettysburg track will be a key feature of our History of America Mega-Conference.

18 VISIONS FOR 2013

A Return to the Ancient Landmarks of Our Liberty

Philly Faith and Freedom Tour to Explore God's Providence

For more than a decade, Vision Forum Ministries has taken Christian families to the landmarks of our liberty in Plymouth, Boston, Jamestown, and Williamsburg. This year, Doug Phillips and Bill Potter will lead a tour to the middle states and the freedom capitol of Philadelphia to understand the providential roots of Christianity and liberty in our nation. The Philadelphia Faith and Freedom Tour will follow the History of the World Conference. Families will learn about the War for Independence, the Constitutional Convention, the Great Awakening, and much more.

Our Message: Give Me Your Heart My Son

Fathers and Sons to Gather for Retreat in Colorado

The father and son relationship is one of the defining relationships in the universe. In fact, before there was a universe, there was the eternal Father who loved the eternal Son. Given this eternal emphasis, Vision Forum Ministries launched its Father and Son Discipleship Retreats fifteen years ago to build a biblical vision for unity and love between dads and their boys. VFM's 2013 retreat, to be held August 28–September 1, will be hosted at Colorado's beautiful Crooked Creek Ranch and will feature thought-provoking messages as well as numerous character-building outdoor activities.

Defending Christ as Creator at the Bottom of the World

VFM to Make Films and Lead Expedition to Antarctica

For the 100th anniversary of Ernest Shackleton's *Endurance* expedition to the South Pole, VFM will lead a Hazardous Journeys Society expedition to Antarctica and shoot seven television episodes addressing various issues in the creation and evolution controversy from the bottom of the Earth. Along the way, fathers and sons will be given opportunities to test their own endurance as they meet unusual challenges. We will examine the creatures of the Arctic and experience the world that polar explorers like Scott, Amundsen, and Shackleton encountered a century ago.

Tools, Tools, Tools!

VFM to Produce Strategic Tools to Equip Families

One mission of Vision Forum Ministries in 2013 is to produce fresh, biblical, and timely messages and materials for the Christian home. Historically, the Lord has blessed this effort, and we seek His blessing again this year. Over the course of a given year, VFM messages often reach hundreds of thousands of homes and individuals. Our radio show presently broadcasts in more than 12 countries on more than 700 radio stations. Please remember to pray for our publishing and production branch of the ministry. We believe in the power of the written and spoken word and desire to use available technology to get a Gospel message of hope to millions.

Equipping Peruvian Pastors and Fathers

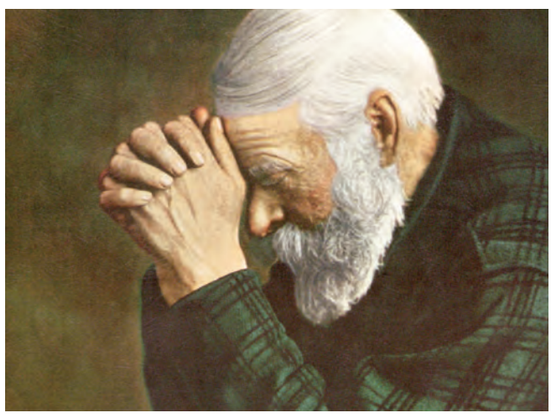
VFM Spanish Ministry to Hold Seminars in Peru

VFM's Spanish-speaking ministry to South America, which was launched in 2012, will advance in 2013 with multiple trips to Peru where representatives will hold one-day conferences with pastors and fathers to discuss biblical fatherhood and teach biblical principles. Father-and-son teams like Alfredo and Andrew Torres, along with Doug Phillips and sons Joshua and Justice, will teach so that Peruvians can hear a message directly from fathers and sons. VFM will also be translating materials into Spanish, including conference notebooks and study guides.

Join Us for a Year of Prayer

Calling Our Friends to Make 2013 a Year of Prayer

Perhaps more than any other season in our lifetime, Americans need to be in prayer. Following the elections and challenges of 2012, we are reminded of the great need for prayer for our families, our churches, and our country. Will you join VFM in making this a year of special prayer in which we purpose to lift our national leaders, our church shepherds, and each other up before the Lord? Will you join us in entreating the Lord for mercy; that God's people would return to Him so that we might have blessing on our land?



MISSION STATEMENT

Preserving Our Covenant with God through Biblical Patriarchy and Multi-Generational Faithfulness

1. Turning the Hearts of Fathers to Their Families
2. Proclaiming the Nobility and Glory of Motherhood
3. Reviving the Doctrine of "Women and Children First"
4. Embracing the Blessing of Children and the Sanctity of Human Life
5. Building a Culture of Virtuous Boyhood and Girlhood
6. Reinforcing Godly Masculinity and Femininity
7. Understanding Family Culture as Religion Externalized
8. Teaching History as the Providence of God
9. Developing Biblical Worldview Through Presuppositional Thinking
10. Training Character by Hebrew Discipleship and Home Education
11. Communicating the Applicability of the Law of God
12. Addressing the Ethical Issues of the 21st Century
13. Preparing Men to Stand in the Gates
14. Encouraging Unity Between Church and Home

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For helpful resources for the family, visit www.visionforum.org.

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